

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register: 20 March 2002
Name of applicant/court: Society for The Promotion of Community Standards Inc.
Applicant to the Labelling Body: Not Applicable
Title of Publication: Baise-Moi
Other Known Titles: Fuck Me
Rape Me
Kiss Me
Directors: Virginie Despentes, Coralie Trinh Thi
Producer: Phillipe Godeau
Publisher: Not Applicable
Author: Not Applicable
Format: Video Recording VHS/PAL
Country of Origin: France
Language: French with English subtitles

.....
Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Baise-Moi	Running time:	73.45
Trailers:	Nil	Running time:	
		Total Running time:	73.45

Excision/Alteration: No.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

... Please turn over

Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Display Conditions:

Nil.

Descriptive Note:

Contains frequent disturbing depictions of violence and repeated explicit sexual content.

.....
Direction to issue a label has been given on: 20 March 2002

.....
SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Board unanimously considered the film *Baise-Moi* to be objectionable if made available to persons under the age of 18 years. No other conditions are required by the Board.

The Board finds that, pursuant to the *Living Word* decision, *Baise-Moi* comes within the “gateways” of sex, crime, cruelty and violence which are featured in the film.

The Board finds *Baise-Moi* to be objectionable in terms of s 3(1) of the Act in that the prevalence of sex, crime, cruelty and violence and the manner in which each is dealt with in the film means there is a likelihood of injury to the public good.

Under s 3(2) of the Act the Board finds that the film does not necessarily promote, support or tend to promote or support the activities in that section but rather starkly describes them. There are a number of scenes from the film which are counter balanced by other scenes as a foil to promoting, supporting or tending to promote or support the activity. The Board finds on balance, although the film chronicles the women’s behaviour after being affected by traumatic events in their separate lives, describing these events does not necessarily show the film as a whole as promoting or supporting or tending to promote or support the activity shown in it.

The Board accepts that *Baise-Moi* describes, depicts, or otherwise deals with the matters in s 3(3)(a)(i) and (ii) and (c) of the Act, and acknowledges the concern of the Classification Office as to the manner in which the film depicts sexual violence and violence in association with sexual conduct. The Board believes the graphic portrayal of the rape is a catalyst for the ensuing actions of the two main characters, but accepts that “there is a constant juxtaposing of sex with violence which has effect of sexualising the violence as well as adding a violent reading to the sex. Each element on its own is less problematic than the juxtaposition of both”. The Board therefore finds that the extent and degree to which the activities in *Baise-Moi* fall within s 3(a)(i)(ii) and (iii) is high and the manner in which the film juxtaposes sex, violence and sexual violence warrants an age restriction.

In respect of s 3(4) of the Act, the dominant effect is that just desserts are meted out in the end to the two main characters. The Board acknowledges a degree of merit in *Baise-Moi* as a post-modern movie with some value from a feminist perspective. *Baise-Moi* is a provocative film on the human condition and it is noted that it is listed in the top ten films for the year 2000 in Time Magazine.

The Board did not consider excising certain scenes from the film pursuant to s 32 of the Act was appropriate, as the portrayal of sex and violence is pervasive throughout the film and would be difficult to remove while still retaining the story line. The Board also believes it would affect the thread of the film if cuts were made to, for instance, the rape scene.

In making its decision the Board considered the *Living Word Ltd v Human Rights Action Group* (2000) BCL decision and the 5 step approach in the decision of *Moonen v Film & Literature Board of Review* (2000) 2 NZLR 9.

OFLC Ref: 200383